



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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Land Board Adopts Rule To Ban Drugs, Alcohol At Kāneʻohe Sandbar

HONOLULU -- The Board of Land and Natural Resources today adopted an emergency rule amendment to establish a safety zone around Ahu o Laka (the Kāneʻohe sandbar) that prohibits alcohol and drugs on three-day weekends that include state holidays. The rule will be in effect before the Fourth of July weekend and for 120 days while the Department plans to begin a formal rule-making process to establish permanent rules for Ahu o Laka.

“Families and residents have long enjoyed going out to the sandbar,” said William J. Ailā, Jr. DLNR Chairperson. “However, in recent years, there has been an increase in unruly activity that involves drinking and use of illegal drugs. We have a responsibility to ensure the public’s safety, and this new rule will help us in protecting our residents and families.”

The Ahu o Laka safety zone describes a rectangular area just over a square mile comprising the majority of the sandbar and defined by four marker buoys.

The rule includes:

- a prohibition on the possession or consumption of alcohol and other intoxicating substances within the most frequently crowded sections of Ahu o Laka and the immediate surrounding area
- a prohibition on entering or remaining in such area while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or drugs
- a prohibition of disorderly conduct

Violations are subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or not less than \$50 for each violation, in addition to possible administrative penalties.

Over the past several years, there has been an increase in overcrowding and incidents involving alcohol and drugs at Ahu o Laka, particularly on holiday weekends.

The Land Board has rule-making authority under HRS Section 200-4 and emergency rule-making powers in HRS Section 91-3. The board amended Hawaii Administrative Rule (HAR) Title 13 Chapter 256 by

adopting a new section 13-256-73.13 to address activities anticipated to pose an imminent peril to the public health, safety or morals at Ahu o Laka, also known as the Kāne‘ohe Bay sandbar.

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Zone H-2 Ahu O Laka Safety Zone, Kāne'ohe Bay, Hawai'i June 8, 2011

